

Bernard Buffet

Bernard Buffet (1928–1999) was one of the most distinctive voices in modern French art, known for his signature style of bold black lines and a restrained colour palette. Buffet's figurative compositions juxtaposed the abstraction style which dominated the art world and became an active member of the anti-abstraction group *L'homme Témoin* (The Witness-Man). His characteristic angular forms and somber palette earned him early global acclaim as they acted as a powerful representation of post-war emotional devastation.



Throughout his career, Buffet received prestigious awards, including being made an Officer of the Légion d'Honneur in 1973 and election to the Académie des Beaux-Arts in 1974. His artworks are held in collections of the world's most prominent institutions, such as the Tate Modern in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris.

Tête d'écorché (1964) stands as a haunting masterwork within Buffet's seminal *Les Ecorchés* (The Flayed) series. This monumental piece highlights his mastery of anatomical studies, rendered through his signature artistic approach. *Écorché* refers to anatomical figures depicted without skin; a concept Buffet transforms through his unflinching examination of the human form. His highly impastoed composition captures what critics have called the 'vertigo of the elemental,' reflecting the profound anguish that permeated post-World War Europe. With technical precision, Buffet conveys his subject's emotional state through a gaze that appears both bewildered with fright and consumed by anger, mirroring the collective trauma experienced in the aftermath of global conflict.

CV Bernard Buffet

B. 1928 - 1999, France

Education

1943 École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024 *Bernard Buffet* Galerie Taménaga, Osaka, Japan

2024 *Bernard Buffet: Autrement*, Marseille, France

2024 *Bernard Buffet: Existentialist and Popular Artists*, Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland

2023 *Bernard Buffet Dialogs*, Helene Bailly Gallery, Paris, France

2022 *Bernard & Aïzpiri*, Galerie Taménaga, Osaka, Japan

2020 *Bernard Buffet*, Galerie Taménaga, Osaka, Japan

2020 *Bernard Buffet*, Helene Bailly Gallery, Paris, France

2019 *Bernard Buffet The Controversial Genius*, Opera Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2018 *Bernard Buffet*, Galerie Taménaga, Osaka, Japan

2018 *The Vault: Bernard Buffet*, Eli & Edythe Broad Art museum, Michigan State University

2018 *Bernard Buffet*, Galerie Taménaga, Osaka, Japan

2017 *Bernard Buffet* Opera Gallery, New York, USA

2017 *Bernard Buffet: Rétrospective*, Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, Paris, France

2006 *Raoul Dufy & Bernard Buffet*, Opera Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

- 2015 *Bernard Buffet The Theory of Line*, Opera Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2014 *Bernard Buffet*, Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2010 *Bernard Buffet*, Meguro Museum, Tokyo, Japan Galerie DIL, Paris, France
Galerie Pascale Froessel, Strasbourg, France
- 2009 *Bernard Buffet*, Centre de la Vieille Charité, Marseille, France *Bernard Buffet et Annabel*, Sogo Museum of Art in Yokohoma, Japan
- 2008 *Bernard Buffet Maler*, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2007 *Bernard Buffet et la Bretagne*, Musée départemental breton, Quimper, France
- 2006 *Bernard Buffet: een omstreden oeuvre*, Gemeentemuseum den haag, La Haye, The Netherlands
- 2003 *Bernard Buffet*, Paul Valéry Museum, Sète, France
- 1995 *Bernard Buffet*, Odakyu Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1994 *Bernard Buffet retrospektive*, Documenta-Halle, Kassel, Germany
- 1993 *Bonjour Monsieur Buffet !*, Museum Gustave Courbet, Ornans, France *Bernard Buffet*, Château de Chenonceau, Chenonceau, France *Vingt mille lieues sous les mers*, Départemental Museum of l'Oise, Beauvais, France

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *Portraits: Through The Looking Glass*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2024 *Un certain regard*, La Capitale Galerie, Paris, France
- 2024 *Monochrome*, Galerie Taménaga, Osaka, Japan
- 2023 *What Humanity? The Human Figure After The War (1940 - 1960)*, Museum Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain

- 2022 *Bilder des Menschen: Die Sammlung Klewan*, Kallmann Museum, Ismaning, Germany
- 2022 *On the Wall*, Bill Hodges Gallery, New York, USA
- 2022 *The Art Of The Gardening*, Helene Bailly Gallery, Paris, France
- 2021 *The Monaco Masters Show*, Opera Gallery, Monaco
- 2017 *Masterpieces on Paper*, Galerie Taménaga, Osaka, Japan
- 2017 *The School of Paris*, The Majlis Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2016 *Meet the Best Masterpieces*, The Menard Art Museum, Kadena, Japan
- 2016 *Small Masters Pieces*, Galerie Taménaga, Osaka, Japan
- 2016 Museum of Modern Art of the City of Paris, France
- 2014 *Post 1958 : une symphonie de couleur en plus*, Musée du Touquet-Paris-Plage, Le Touquet, France
- 2000 Sogo Museum of Art, Yokohoma, Japan 1998 Bernard Buffet, Palais Bénédicte, Fécamp, France
- 1996 Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan
- 1991 The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow, Russia The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, Russia Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea 1987 Odakyu Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1985 *Réfectoire des Jacobins*, Toulouse, France
- 1983 The Seedamm Cultural Centre, Pfäffikon, Switzerland 1978 Bernard Buffet, Museum of the French Postal Service, Paris, France Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan
- 1977 *Museum de Wieger*, Deurne, The Netherlands 1969 Bernard Buffet, Museum Unterlinden, Colmar, France
- 1963 The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan 1959 Knokke-Le-Zoute,

Belgium

1958 The French Institute, Berlin, Germany Cent tableaux de 1944 à 1958 par
Bernard Buffet, Galerie Charpentier, Paris, France Les Voyages fantastiques de
Cyrano de Bergerac, Jacquemart-André Museum, Paris, France

1955 *Paintings by Bernard Buffet*, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, USA

1946 Salon des Moins de Trente Ans at the Galerie Beaux-Arts, Paris, France

Selected Museums

Art Institute of Chicago

Bernard Buffet Museum, Surugadaira, Japan

Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh

Centre Pompidou, Paris

Cleveland Museum of Art

Dallas Museum of Art

Detroit Institute of Arts

Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, MA

Indianapolis Museum of Art

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Musée Danicourt, Péronne, France

Musée d'Art et d'Histoire Louis Senlecq, L'Isle-Adam, France

Musée d'Art Moderne, Troyes, France

Musée de Grenoble

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30 Davies St, Mayfair,
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Musée des Beaux-Arts, Bordeaux

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Nantes

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Lille

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Museum of Modern Art, New York

National Gallery of Art, Washington DC

National Gallery of Victoria, Australia

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO

Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Washington, DC

Tate Modern, London

Selected Artwork



Bernard Buffet (1928–1999)

Tête d'écorché, 1964

Oil on canvas

63 3/4 x 51 1/8 in

162 x 130 cm